of shaped discs at a plurality of stations including a slot cutting station and a plurality of intermediate stations, said discs and said stations having centers, said stations and said strip having an imaginary center line and said centers falling substantially on said center line, cutting at said slot cutting station at least one laterally extending slot through said strip between each pair of adjacent discs[, said slot forming] and at least two narrow deformable bridges connecting each pair of adjacent discs, one of said bridges being formed at each lateral end of said slot, said slot and said bridges being serially laterally aligned transverse to said center line, orienting said discs at said intermediate stations while shaping said discs between said bridges at said intermediate stations, and enabling the distances between said pairs of adjacent discs at said intermediate stations to be adjusted by simultaneously deforming said bridges while maintaining said centers of said discs substantially on said center line when the distances between said centers of said discs differ from the distances between said centers of said stations, each of said discs having at least four outer sides, and further comprising the step of physically engaging with four straddle pilots said four outer sides of a disc which is adjacent said slot cutting station and thereby orienting said disc at said slot cutting station while cutting said at least one slot.

22. (Three Times Amended) A progressive die and a strip of material, said die including a series of die stations arranged along an imaginary center line, said stations including cutting means for cutting said strip and die pilot means for positioning said strip, the distances between said die pilot means of successive stations being substantially constant, and said strip of material being shaped by said die, said strip including a series of sections and said sections having strip pilot means for mating with said die pilot means, the distances between said strip pilot means at times being variable and at times different from said distances between said die pilot means, each of said sections including a geometric center, and a plurality of deformable bridge means for connecting adjacent sections of said strip, said die including a slot cutting means for forming said bridge means, said sections being relatively stiff and said deformable bridge means being sized to deform and thereby adjust the distance between said geometric centers of said adjacent sections and said distances between said strip pilot means in order to compensate for said variable distances between said strip pilot means while maintaining said geometric centers substantially on said imaginary center line, said sections having at least four outer sides, and said die further including straddle pilot means in a die station adjacent said slot cutting means for engaging [with] said four outer

sides of at least one of said sections adjacent said slot cutting means and for accurately locating said one of said sections in said die station adjacent said slot cutting means during the formation of said bridge means.

48. (Amended) Apparatus as set forth in Claim 47, wherein said pilot means comprises four straddle pilots engagable with four outer sides of said [discs] disc at said station adjacent said slot punch means.

Please add the following new claims 55 and 56:

--55. An elongate progressive die assembly having a longitudinal axis and a series of at least four successive die stations serially disposed along said longitudinal axis, the center-to-center spacing along said longitudinal axis between the centers of each pair of adjacent die stations being fixed, at least some of said die stations including punch means for shaping a series of interconnected discs in an elongate metal strip, the center-to-center spacing between the geometric centers of adjacent discs in said strip being variable from said fixed center-to-center spacing between said centers of each pair of said adjacent die stations, means for maintaining accurate progression of said discs along said longitudinal axis through said die stations despite variations in said center-to-center spacing

between said geometric centers of adjacent discs in said strip, said maintaining means including means for enabling the center-to-center spacing along said longitudinal axis between said geometric centers of adjacent discs to be changed, said enabling means comprising slot punch means for forming both at least one elongate slot extending in a lateral direction transverse to said longitudinal axis and at least a pair of narrow deformable bridges spaced apart in said lateral direction by said elongate slot and disposed at the opposite lateral ends of said elongate slot, said bridges being sufficiently narrow in said lateral direction to be deformable to effect the changing of said center-to-center spacing along said longitudinal axis between said geometric centers of said adjacent discs, said narrow deformable bridges and said at least one elongate slot being aligned in said lateral direction.--

--56. An elongate progressive motor lamination die assembly having a longitudinal axis and a series of successive die stations serially disposed along said longitudinal axis, the center-to-center spacing along said longitudinal axis between the centers of each pair of adjacent die stations being fixed, at least some of said die stations including punch means for shaping a series of interconnected electric motor lamination discs in an elongate scroll metal strip, the center-to-center spacing

between the geometric centers of adjacent discs in said strip being variable from said fixed center-to-center spacing between said centers of each pair of said adjacent die stations, means for maintaining accurate progression of said discs along said longitudinal axis through said die stations despite variations in said center-to-center spacing in said geometric centers of adjacent discs in said strip, said maintaining means including means for enabling changes to the center-to-center spacing along said longitudinal axis between said geometric centers of adjacent discs, said enabling means comprising slot punch means for forming a plurality of elongate slots extending in a lateral direction transverse to said longitudinal axis and a plurality of narrow deformable bridges spaced apart in said lateral direction by said elongate slots and disposed at the opposite lateral ends of at least one of said elongate slots, said bridges being sufficiently narrow in said lateral direction to be deformable to effect said changing of said center-to-center spacing along said longitudinal axis between said geometric centers of said adjacent discs, said narrow deformable bridges and said elongate slots being aligned in said lateral direction and alternating such that an elongate slot is disposed between each pair of spaced apart bridges, and straddle pilot means physically disposed in said die assembly at a die station adjacent to said slot punch means for physically engaging four sides of a disc in